

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/688,507

Examiner

Wilson Lee

Applicant(s)

SHI, RUHE

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/9/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-17 and 19-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2821

Allowable subject matter

Claims 13-17, 19-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art neither discloses nor suggests the following limitations, in combination with the remaining elements as disclosed in claims 13-17, 19, 22:

- the end of lamp life sensing and control circuit is adapted to sense DC rectification and excessively high AC voltage end of lamp life conditions such as required by claim 13;
- the end of lamp life sensing and control circuit is adapted to be connected in parallel with the gas discharge lamp load such as required by claim 14;
- the end of lamp life sensing and control circuit is adapted so that current flowing through the sensing circuit is less than current flowing through the gas discharge lamp load such as required by claim 15;
- the end of lamp life sensing and control circuit includes an AC sensing component adapted to sense AC voltage developed across the gas discharge lamp load such as required by claim 16;
- the end of lamp life sensing and control circuit is further adapted to sense an overheating condition in the electronic ballast and to cause the electronic ballast to enter an overheating protected state when the overheating condition occurs such as required by claim 17;

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- the end of lamp life sensing and control circuit is adapted to generate the DC end of lamp life reference voltage by generating an AC end of lamp life reference voltage representative of a peak-to-peak voltage across the gas discharge lamp load and converting the AC end of lamp life reference voltage into the DC end of lamp life reference voltage such as required by claim 19;
- the end of lamp life sensing and control circuit is adapted to determine that the DC end of lamp life reference voltage exceeds the predetermined DC end of lamp life reference voltage by applying the DC end of lamp life reference voltage to an end of lamp life voltage controlled switch included in the end of lamp life sensing and control circuit; and wherein the end of lamp life voltage controlled switch includes an end of lamp life switching voltage that is equal to the predetermined DC end of lamp life reference voltage such as required by claim 22.

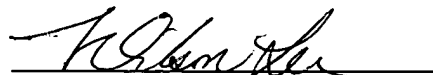
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1824.

Papers related to Technology Center 2800 applications may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

9/23/05